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spider 'spi-dər \n [ME *spyder*, alter. of *spithre*; akin to OE *spinnan* to spin] (15c) 1: any of an order (Araneae syn. Araneida) of arachnids having the abdomen usu. unsegmented and constricted at the base, chelicerae modified into poison fangs, and two or more pairs of abdominal spinnerets for spinning threads of silk used in making cocoons for their eggs, nests for themselves, or webs to catch prey 2: a cast-iron frying pan orig. made with short feet to stand among coals on the hearth 3: any of various devices consisting of a frame or skeleton with radiating arms or members — **spider-ish** \-də-rish\ *adj* — **spider-like** \-də-r, -lik\ *adj*

spider crab \n (ca. 1710): any of a family (Majidae) of crabs with extremely long legs and nearly triangular bodies which they often cover with mite

spider mite *n* (1870): any of several small web-spinning mites (family Tetranychidae) that attack forage and crop plants — called also *red spider*

spider monkey *n* (1764): any of a genus (*Ateles*) of New World monkeys with long slender limbs, the thumb absent or rudimentary, and a very long prehensile tail

spider plant *n* (1944): a widely grown houseplant (*Chlorophytum comosum* var. *variegatum*) of the lily family having long narrow green leaves usu. striped with white or ivory and producing white flowers and tufts of plantlets on long hanging stems

spider-web \-spi-dər-, -web\ *n* (ca. 1649) 1: the network of silken thread spun by most spiders and used as a resting place and as a trap for small prey 2: something that resembles or suggests a spiderweb

spiderwort \-wɔrt-, -wɔrt\ *n* (1629): any of a genus (*Tradescantia* of the family Commelinaceae, the spiderwort family) of American monocotyledonous plants with ephemeral often blue or violet flowers

spiderweb \-spi-dər-, -rē\ *adj* (1837) 1: a: resembling a spiderweb 2: resembling a spiderweb; esp: composed of spider threads or lines in a weblike arrangement (~ lace) 2: infested with spiders

spiegel-gel-sen \-spe-gə-, -lɛ-zən\ also **spiegel-gel** \-spe-gəl\ *n* [G *Spiegel* *leisen*, fr. *Spiegel* mirror + *leisen* to] (1868): a composition of iron that contains 15 to 30 percent manganese and 4.5 to 6.5 percent carbon

spiel \-spiəl\ *vb* [G *spielen* to play, fr. OHG *spīlan*; akin to OE *spilian* to revel] *vi* (1870) 1: to play music 2: to talk volubly or extravagantly ~ *vi*: to utter, express, or describe volubly or extravagantly — **spieler** \-spiəl-ər\ *n*

spiel *n* (1896): a voluble line of often extravagant talk: PITCH

spier \-spi-(ə)r\ *n* (13c): SPY

spier \-spi:r\ *chiefly Scot* var. of *SPYER*

spiff \-spi:f\ *vb* [E dial. *spiff* *dandified*] (1877): SPRUCE — usu. used with *up* (~ up your wardrobe) — **spiffed-up** \-spi:f-tʃəp\ *adj*

spiffy \-spi:f-ē\ *adj* **spiffi-er**, -est (1853): fine looking: SMART (a ~ sports jacket) — **spiffi-ly** \-fə-, -lē\ *adv* — **spiffi-ness** \-fə-, -nəs\ *n*

spigot \-spi-gət-, -kət\ *n* [ME] (14c) 1: a: SPILE 2: b: the plug of a faucet or cock *c*: FAUCET 2: something resembling a spigot esp. in regulating availability or flow (as of money)

spike \-spi:k\ *n* [ME, prob. fr. MD; akin to MHG *spicher* spike] (13c) 1: a very large nail 2: a: one of a row of pointed irons placed (as on the top of a wall) to prevent passage *b* (1): one of several metal projections set in the sole and heel of a shoe to improve traction (2) *pl*: a pair of shoes having spikes attached to the soles or soles and heels *c*: SPINDLE 1c 3: something resembling a spike: as *a*: a young mackerel not over six inches (15.2 centimeters) long *b*: an unbranched antler of a young deer *4 pl*: shoes with spike heels 5: the act or an instance of spiking (as in volleyball) 6: *a*: a pointed element in a graph or tracing *b*: an unusually high and sharply defined maximum (as of amplitude in a wave train) 7: slang: HYPODERMIC NEEDLE 8: a momentary sharp increase and fall in the record of an electric potential; also: ACTION POTENTIAL 9: an abrupt sharp increase in prices or rates — **spike-like** \-lik\ *adj*

spike *vi* **spiked**; **spiking** (1624) 1: to fasten or furnish with spikes 2: *a*: to disable (a muzzle-loading cannon) temporarily by driving a spike into the vent *b*: to suppress or block completely (*spiked* the rumor) 3: *a*: to pierce or impale with or on a spike *b*: to reject (as a story) for publication or broadcast for editorial reasons 4: *a*: to add an alcoholic beverage to (a drink) *b*: to add something highly reactive (as a radioactive tracer) to *c*: to add vitality, zest, or spice to: *LIVEN* (*spiked* the speech with humor) ~ *down*: to add vitality, zest, or spice to: to drive (as a volleyball) sharply downward with a hard blow; also: to throw down sharply (*spiked* the ball in the end zone) 6: to undergo a sudden sharp increase in (temperature, or fever) (the patient *spiked* a fever of 103°) — **spike-er** *n*

spica *n* [ME *spik*, fr. L *spica* — more at SPINE] (14c) 1: an ear of grain 2: an elongated inflorescence similar to a raceme but having the flowers sessile on the main axis — see INFLORESCENCE illustration

spiked \-spi:k-t\, **spik-kəd** \-kəd\ *adj* (1601) 1: having an inflorescence that is a spike 2: having a sharp projecting point

spike heel *n* (1926): a very high tapping heel used on women's shoes

spike lavender \-spi:k-ə\ *n* [alter. of E dial. *spick* lavender] (1607): a European mint (*Lavandula latifolia*) related to true lavender

spike-let \-spi:k-lət\ *n* (1851): a small or secondary spike; *specif*: one of the small few-flowered bracted spikes that make up the compound inflorescence of a grass or sedge

spike-nard \-spi:k-, -nərd\ *n* [ME, fr. MF or ML; MF *spicanarde*, fr. ML *spica nardi*, lit., spike of nard] (14c) 1: a: a fragrant ointment of the ancients *b*: a Himalayan aromatic plant (*Nardostachys jatamansi*) of the valerian family from which spikenard is believed to have been derived 2: an American herb (*Aralia racemosa*) of the ginseng family with aromatic root and panicked umbels

spike-tooth harrow \-spi:k-, -tūth-ə\ *n* (1926): a harrow with straight steel teeth set in horizontal bars

spiky also **spikey** \-spi:k-ē\, **spik-i-er**, -est (1720) 1: of, relating to, or characterized by spikes 2: sharply irritating or acerbic (as in temper or manner) 3: [fr. the alleged harshness of such views]: *Brit*: strongly favoring Anglo-Catholic teaching or practice — **spik-i-ly** \-kə-, -lē\ *adv* — **spik-i-ness** \-kə-, -nəs\ *n*

spile \-spi:(ə)\ *n* [prob. fr. D *spijl* stake] (1513) 1: *FILE* 1 2: a small plug used to stop the vent of a cask: BUNG 3: a spout inserted in a tree to draw off sap

spile *vi* **spiled**; **spiling** (1691) 1: to plug with a spile 2: to supply with a spile

'spill \ˈspɪl/ **vo spilled** ˈspɪld, ˈspɪlt/ **also spilt** ˈspɪlt/; **spilling** [ME fr. OE *spellan*: akin to OE *spildan* to destroy and perish. to L *spoliare* animal skin, Gk *spallein* to cause to fall] **v** (bef. 12c) **1** *a* archaic: KILL, DESTROY **b** to cause (blood) to flow **2** to cause or allow esp. accidentally or unintentionally to fall, flow, or run out so as to be lost or wasted **3** *a* to relieve (a sail) from the pressure of the wind so as to reef or furl it **b** to relieve the pressure of (wind) on a sail by coming about or by adjusting the sail with lines **4** to throw off or out (a horse ~ed him) **5** to let out: DIVULGE (~ a secret) ~ *vi* **1** *a* to flow, run, or fall out, over, or off and become wasted, scattered, or lost **b** to cause or allow something to spill **2** to spread profusely or beyond bounds (crowds ~ed into the streets) **3** to fall from one's place (as on a horse) ~ **spill-able** ˈspɪl-ə-bəl/ **adj** ~ **spill-er** *n* **1** *a* **spill the beans**: to divulge secret or hidden information **spill** ˈspɪl/ (ca. 1845) **1** the act or an instance of spilling; *esp*: a fall from a horse or vehicle or an erect position **2** something spilled **'spill** *n* [ME *spille*] (14c) **1** a wooden splinter **2** a slender piece: as *a* metallic rod or pin **b** (1): a small roll or twist of paper or slip of wood for lighting a fire (2): a roll or cone of paper serving as a container *c*: a peg or pin for plugging a hole: **SPILE** **spill-age** ˈspɪl-ɪj/ *n* (1924) **1** the act or process of spilling **2** the quantity that spills: material lost or scattered by spilling **spill-ik-kin** ˈspɪl-ɪk-ən/ *n* [prob. alter. of obs. D *spilleken* small peg] (1734) **1**: JACKSTRAW **2** *pl*: JACKSTRAW **spill-over** ˈspɪl-ə-vər/ *n*, often attrib (1920) **1** the act or an instance of spilling over **2** a quantity that spills over **3** an extension of something *esp.* when due to an excess **spill-way** ˌvɔːl/ *n* (1889) a passage for surplus water to run over or around an obstruction (as a dam) **spilth** ˈspɪlθ/ *n* (1607) **1** the act or an instance of spilling **2** a: something spilled **b**: REFUSE, RUBBISH **'spin** ˈspɪn/ **vb** *spun* ˈspʊn/; **spinning** [ME *spinnen*, fr. OE *spinnan*: akin to OHG *spinnan* to spin and perish. to Lith *spęsti* to set (a trap)] *vi* (bef. 12c) **1** to draw out and twist fiber into yarn or thread **2** to form a thread by extruding a viscous rapidly hardening fluid — used *esp.* of a spider or insect **3** *a* to revolve rapidly: GYRATE **b**: to feel as if in a whirl: REEL (my head is *spinning*) **4** to move swiftly *esp.* on or as if on wheels or in a vehicle **5** to fish with spinning bait **TROLL** **6** *a* of an airplane: to fall in a spin **b**: to plunge helplessly and out of control ~ *vt* **1** *a* to draw out and twist into yarns or threads **b**: to produce by drawing out and twisting a fibrous material **2** to form (as a web or cocoon) by spinning **3** *a* to stretch out or extend (as a story) lengthily: PROTRACT — *usu.* used with *out* **b**: to evolve, express, or fabricate by processes of mind or imagination (~ a yarn) **4** to cause to whirl: impart spin to (~ a top) **5** to shape into threadlike form in manufacture; *also*: to manufacture by a whirling process **'spin** *n* (1831) **1** *a*: the act of spinning or twirling something; *also*: an instance of spinning or of spinning something (doing axels and ~s) (an assortment of ~s and lobs) **b**: the whirling motion imparted (as to a ball or top) by spinning *c*: an excursion or ride in a vehicle *esp.* on wheels (go for a ~) **2** *a*: an aerial maneuver or flight condition consisting of a combination of roll and yaw with the longitudinal axis of the airplane inclined steeply downward **b**: a plunging descent or downward spiral *c*: a state of mental confusion (in a ~) **3** *a*: a quantum characteristic of an elementary particle that is visualized as the rotation of the particle on its axis and that is responsible for measurable angular momentum and magnetic moment **b**: the angular momentum associated with such rotation whose magnitude is quantized and which may assume either of two possible directions; *also*: the angular momentum of a system of such particles derived from the spins and orbital motions of the particles **4**: a special point of view, emphasis, or interpretation (put the most favorable ~ on the findings) — **spin-less** ˈspɪn-ləs/ **adj** **spi-na** ˌbi-fɪ-də ˈspɪ-nə-ˌbi-fɪ-də/ *n* [NL, lit., spine split in two] (1720) **1**: a congenital cleft of the vertebral column with hernial protrusion of the meninges and sometimes the spinal cord **spin-ach** ˈspɪ-nɪʃ/ *n* [ME *spynache*, fr. MF *espinache*, *espinaque*, fr. OSP *espinaca*, fr. Ar *isfānākh*, fr. Per] (15c) **1** an Asian herb (*Spinacia oleracea*) of the goosefoot family cultivated for its edible leaves which form in a dense basal rosette **2** *a*: something unwanted, pretentious, or spurious **b**: an untidy overgrowth — **spin-ach-like** ˌvɪʃ-ɪk-ə/ **adj** ~ **spin-achy** ˌvɪ-ni-ʃ-ə/ **adj** **'spinal** ˈspɪ-nəl/ **adj** (1578) **1** *a*: of, relating to, or situated near the backbone **2** *a*: of, relating to, or affecting the spinal cord (c reflexes) **b**: having the spinal cord functionally isolated (as by surgical section) from the brain (experiments on ~ animals) **3**: of, relating to, or resembling a spine **'spinal** *n* (1944): a spinal anesthetic **spinal canal** *n* (1845): VERTEBRAL CANAL **spinal column** *n* (1836): the axial skeleton of the trunk and tail of a vertebrate consisting of an articulated series of vertebrae and protecting the spinal cord — *also called* **backbone** **spinal cord** *n* (1836): the cord of nervous tissue that extends from the brain lengthwise along the back in the vertebral canal, gives off the pairs of spinal nerves, carries impulses to and from the brain, and serves as a center for initiating and coordinating many reflex acts — *see* BRAIN illustration **spinal ganglion** *n* (ca. 1860): a ganglion on the dorsal root of each spinal nerve that is one of a series of ganglia lodging cell bodies of sensory neurons **spinal-ly** ˈspɪ-nəl-ɪ/ **adv** (1885): with respect to or along the spine **spinal nerve** *n* (ca. 1793): any of the paired nerves which leave the spinal cord of a craniate vertebrate, supply muscles of the trunk and limbs, and connect with the nerves of the sympathetic nervous system, which arise by a short motor ventral root and a short sensory dorsal root, and of which there are 31 pairs in humans classified according to the part of the spinal cord from which they arise into 8 cervical pairs, 12 thoracic pairs, 5 lumbar pairs, 5 sacral pairs, and one coccygeal pair **spin-dle** ˈspɪ-n-dəl/ *n* [ME *spindel*, fr. OE *spinel*: akin to OE *spinnan* to spin] (12c) **1** *a*: a round stick with tapered ends used to form and twist the yarn in hand spinning **b**: the long slender pin by which the thread is twisted in a spinning wheel *c*: any of various rods or pins holding a bobbin in a textile machine (as a spinning frame) **d**: the pin

in a loom shuttle *v* base on which paper 2: something shape of chiefly microtubule distributed during mitosis bar or shaft used to: the latch or bolt of a in a baluster) (2): 1 than a shaft (2): pivot ends *v* the p **spindle** *v*b **spindle** 1: to shoot or grow stem rather than to forate on the spike o furniture) with **spindle** *cdl* *n* (1878) **spindle-legged** *v* : having long slender **spindle**-*shanked* **spindle** *tree* *n* (154 trees, or vines (gen **spinning**-*ding* **spinning**-*dy* **spinning**-*dy* (2): disproportionately t physical weakness *ture* **spin doctor** *n* (198 ensuring that others **spin-drift** **spin-drift** a strong wind + *E* waves during a age **spine** *v* **spine** *n* [ME *spica* ear of grain] (1 bling a spinal column : the part of a book of which *u*. *appea* : a stiff pointed part 3: a sharp ring unsegmented fin ray **spined** *v* **spined** *adj* **spine-chilling** *adj* **spin-*el* or spin-*elle*** (1528) 1: a hard c sium and aluminum is used as a gem 2 oxides of magnesium **spine-less** **spin-less** 2 *a* : having strength of character **spin-net** *v* **spin-net** *also* fr. *L*: the manner chord having a single : a compactly built **spin fishing** *n* (1950 **spin-*ri*-*lex*** **spin-*ri*-*lex*** at *po*) (1846) : any *Triodia* with spiny s **spin-na-ker** **spin-*ni*** (1866) : a large tria light pole and used wind **spin-*ner*** **spin-*ner*** *n* 2: a fisherman's w blade, or set of w drawn through the metal fairing that is propeller boss and movable arrow that cate the number or may make in a board **spin-*meret*** **spin-*ner*** *con* (as of a spide ducing threads of s silk strands 2: or metal plate, thimble through which a che lulose) is forced in ti nylon) **spin-*ney*** **spin-*ney*** *n* pine thorn, fr. *L* spin growth **spinning** **spinning** *cast* by use of a light **spinning frame** *n* yarn **spinning** **spin-*ny*** early multiple-spindle **spinning reel** *n* (19 which the line is w disengaged to allow **spinning rod** *n* (187 reel **spinning wheel** *n* (1 machine for spinning **spin-off** **spin-off** *v* stockholders of part *also*: the new compo or derived product products (the ~ frative or derivative of character popular in **spin off** *v* (1950) : t spun off its compute establish or become

spruce • squamosal

spur gear

1: to tread sharply or heavily upon : TRAMPLE 2: to reject, disdain or contempt: SCORN *syn* see DECLINE — **spurn-er** *n* **spurn** *n* (14c) 1 a: KICK b obs: STUMBLE 2 a: disdain b: contemptuous treatment

spur *v* **spur-of-the-moment** *adj* (1948) : occurring or developing immediately : hastily extemporized (as decision)

spurred *v* **spurred** *adj* (15c) 1: wearing spurs 2: having on spurs (as a violet)

spur-rey or **spury** *v* **spur-ē**, **ˈspə-rē** *n*, *pl* **spurreys** or **spurries** *fr.* ML *spurgula* (1577) : a small white-flowered weed (*Spergula arvensis*) of the pink family, with whorled leaves; also : a variety of several related and similar herbs

spurt *v* **spurt** *v* *[perh. akin to MHG spürzen to spit, OE ƿsprout — more at SPROUT]* *v* (1570) : to gush forth : SPOUT

spurt *n* (ca. 1775) : a sudden gush : JET

spurt *n* [origin unknown] (ca. 1591) 1: a short period of activity 2 a: a sudden brief burst of effort or activity b: sudden increase in business activity

spurt *v* (1664) : to make a spurt

spurt-le *v* **spurt-lē** *n* [origin unknown] (1756) *chiefly Scot.* : stick for stirring porridge

sput-nik *v* **sput-nik**, **ˈspʊt-**, **ˈspʊt-ə** *n* [Russ. lit., traveling companion, so with + *put* path] (1957) : SATELLITE 2b

sput-ter *v* **sput-tər** *v* [akin to D *spatieren* to sputter] *v* (15c) 1: spit or squirt from the mouth with explosive sounds : 2: to spew or explosively in confusion or excitement 3: to dislodge from the surface of a material by collision with high energy; also : to deposit (a metallic film) by such a process — *vi* 1: squirt particles of food or saliva noisily from the mouth 2: explosively or confusedly in anger or excitement 3: to make popping sounds — **sput-ter-er** *n*

sputter *n* (1673) 1: confused and excited speech or discussion : the act or sound of sputtering

sputum *v* **ˈspju-təm**, **ˈspʊ-ə** *n*, *pl* **sputa** *v* **-tə** [L. fr. neut. of *spuere* to spit — more at SPEW] (ca. 1693) : expectoration made up of saliva and often discharges from the respiratory tract

spy *v* **ˈspi** *v* **spied**; **spying** [ME *spien*, *fr.* OF *espier*, of *espion* akin to OHG *spēhon* to spy; akin to L *specere* to look, look at; *testhai* & *skopein* to watch, look at, consider] *v* (13c) 1: secretly use, for hostile purposes 2: to catch sight of; to search or look for intensively — *vi* 1: to observe or search for something : LOOK 2: to watch secretly as a spy

spy *n*, *pl* **spies** (13c) 1: one that spies : a : one who watches on a person or thing to obtain information b : employed by one nation to secretly convey classified information of great importance to another nation; also : a person who trades secrets of one company to another 2: an act of spying

spy-glass *v* **ˈspi-ɡlas** *n* (1706) : a small telescope

spy-mas-ter *v* **ˈspi-mas-tər** *n* (1938) : the head of a ring of directors of intelligence

squab *v* **ˈskwəb** *n*, *pl* **squabs** [Prob. of Scand origin; akin to Sw *skvabb* anything soft and thick] (1664) 1 a: COUCH b: a chair or couch 2 or *pl* **squab** : a fledgling bird; especially pigeon about four weeks old 3: a short fat person — *vi* **squab-bled** *v* **ˈskwə-bəl** *n* [Prob. of Scand origin; akin to Sw *skvabla* to dispute] (1602) : a noisy altercation or quarrel usu. over a trivial matter

squabble *v* **squab-bled**; **squab-bling** *v* **-b(ə)-lɪŋ** (1604) : noisily and usu. over trifles

squad *v* **ˈskwəd** *n* [MF *esquade*, *fr.* OSP & OF: OSP *esquadra*, ultim. *fr.* (assumed) VL *exquadrare* to make square] (1649) 1: a small organized group of military personnel : a tactical unit that can be easily directed in the field 2: group engaged in a common effort or occupation

squad *v* **squad-ded**; **squad-ding** *ca.* (1802) : to arrange in a squad

squad car *n* (1938) : a police automobile connected by a radio with headquarters — called also *cruiser*, *prowl car*

squad-ron *v* **ˈskwə-drən** *n* [It *sqadrone*, aug. of *squadra* *sq.* (1562) : a unit of military organization : a : a cavalry unit consisting of a troop and lower than a regiment b : a naval unit consisting of more divisions and sometimes additional vessels c (U.S.) the U.S. Air Force higher than a flight and lower than a wing : military flight formation

squadron leader *n* (1919) : a commissioned officer in the army who ranks with a major in the army

squad room *n* (1943) 1: a room in a barracks used to bathe 2: a room in a police station where members of the force are stationed

squa-lene *v* **ˈskwə-len** *n* [ISV, *fr.* L *squalus*, a sea fish] (1916) : an acyclic hydrocarbon $C_{30}H_{62}$ that is used in nature (as a major component of sebum and in shark oil) and is a precursor of steroids (as cholesterol)

squal-id *v* **ˈskwə-ləd** *adj* [L *squalidus* rough, dirty, *fr.* *squalor* covered with scales or dirt, *fr.* *squalus* dirty; *perh.* akin to *sp*] (1596) 1: marked by filthiness and degradation from prosperity 2: SORDID *syn* see DIRTY — **squal-id-ly** *adv* — **squalor** *n*

squall *v* **ˈskwəl** *v* [Prob. of Scand origin; akin to ON *skvalla* to chatter] *v* (ca. 1631) : to cry out raucously : SCREAM — *n* 1: a loud voice : a shout 2: a sudden violent wind often with rain or snow 2: commotion

squall *n* (1709) : a raucous cry

squally *n* [Prob. of Scand origin; akin to Sw *skvalla* rushing etc.] 1: a sudden violent wind often with rain or snow 2: commotion

squally *v* (ca. 1890) : to blow a squall

squally *v* **ˈskwə-lē** *adj* **squall-i-er**; **-est** (1719) 1: marked by squalls 2: GUSTY

squa-lor *v* **ˈskwə-lər** also **ˈskwə-** or **ˈskwə-ə** *n* [L. *fr.* *squalor* quality or state of being squalid]

squa-ma *v* **ˈskwə-mə**, **ˈskwə-ə** *n*, *pl* **squa-mae** *v* **ˈskwə-mə** [L] (ca. 1706) : SCALE; also : a structure resembling a scale

squa-mate *v* **ˈmæt** *adj* (1826) : SCALY (~ reptiles)

squa-ma-tion *v* **ˈskwə-mā-shən** *n* (1881) 1: the state of being scaly 2: the arrangement of scales on an animal

squa-mo-sal *v* **ˈskwə-mō-səl**, **-zəl** *n* (1848) : a squamose